

Newsletter

December 2023

Message from the Principal

I would like to thank you all for your support in what has been a long and tough term. As Christmas approaches it is often a time to reflect on the year. This term was one of both joy and sadness.

Our sadness has been dominated by losing 3 colleagues in the last 6 months —Gill Edwards (Exam Invigilator); Carl Orton (Exam Invigilator) and Mrs Bernie Walker (Head of Year). All of whom made a difference to us all. Mrs Walker worked in our school for almost 20 years and quietly touched thousands and thousands of lives. We will miss them all.

However, we do have a number of things to celebrate — we were judged to be Good again by Ofsted in June; reaccredited with our Artsmark Award Gold; awarded the prestigious Heritage School Status; awarded the Rainbow Flag Award and won at the National Education Today Awards 2023. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated support of staff and of you as parents/carers. Thank you very, very much.

We hope you have a lovely, peaceful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 9th January at 9 am.

Mrs Brown, Principal



New College Leicester Rated 'Good' By Ofsted

This term we were delighted to announce that New College Leicester has been rated “Good” by Ofsted following our latest inspection. The report highlights the good behaviour of students, our ambitious curriculum, leadership, and support for students’ with SEND and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

An asset to the New Parks community

Our school has been on a transformational improvement process over the past decade and is positively impacting the children in New Parks, is an asset to the local community and helping to break the cycle of disadvantage in the area. The latest Ofsted inspection is significant as it shows that we have maintained our effectiveness following the upheaval caused by the pandemic. We were previously inspected in 2017.

An ambitious school that expands student’s horizons

The Ofsted report recognised the high ambitions of the school leaders and staff’s commitment to improving learning outcomes for their students. The report states that: “Leaders and staff want the very best for every pupil and student. Leaders are meticulous in making sure that everyone has a range of opportunities to develop their talents and interests. Pupils enjoy school. They know that their teachers have their best interest at heart.”

Expanding students’ horizons and ambitions is central to our curriculum. We provide a wide range of extracurricular activities, such as history trips to London and France and cultural activities with The Curve Theatre in Leicester. Staff were pleased to see this acknowledged in the report. Ofsted noted that “leaders have put a curriculum in place that is well planned and ambitious. It sets out the skills and knowledge that pupils need in every subject. Leaders have planned the curriculum to expand pupils’ horizons and give them access to new opportunities.”

Jane Brown, Principal at New College Leicester comments: “We are pleased with the outcome of our latest Ofsted inspection as it validates our vision, focus and ambitions for our school. We are proud that our school is an asset to the local community and a positive force in the lives of our students. We want children to leave New College with options and prospects, and to also enjoy their time with us, and I am pleased that this is recognised by Ofsted.

To read more please go to [New College Leicester Rated 'Good' By Ofsted | New College Leicester](#)

2024 Dates for your diary

- **Tuesday 9th Jan**
Term starts
- **Monday 15th—Friday 19th Jan**
Year 9 core exams
- **Thursday 25th Jan**
Year 9 & 10 National Theatre Performance of Jekyll & Hyde
- **Monday 29th—30th Jan**
Yr11 Practical Hairdressing exam
- **Monday 29th Jan**
Yr10 History trip to York
- **Wednesday 31st Jan**
Yr11 Positive Steps Further Education application deadline
- **Thursday 1st Feb**
Yr9 Parents & Options Evening
- **Monday 5th—Friday 16th Feb**
Yr10 Mock exams
- **Monday 5th Feb**
Yr9 History Holocaust Centre Trip
- **Friday 9th Feb**
Yr9 Option Forms Deadline
- **Friday 16th Feb**
Last day of half term
- **Monday 26th Feb**
Term starts
- **Monday 26th—Friday 8th Mar**
National Careers Week
New College Leicester Reading Week
- **Thursday 7th Mar**
Author Visit—Mario Mugan
- **Friday 8th Mar**
Yr9—11 Teenage booster & meningitis vaccinations
- **Wednesday 13th Mar**
Yr10 Brown Envelope mock results
- **Thursday 14th Mar**
Yr10 Parents Evening
- **Friday 15th Mar**
Yr7 History trip to Hampton Court Palace
Yr8 Expressive Arts Pathways option form deadline
- **Friday 22nd Mar**
Last Day of Term



UK Transplant Games Success for NCL Teacher

We are pleased to announce that Sophie Newman, our Director of Learning for PE and Vocational Education, has scooped four medals at the UK Transplant Games!

In a remarkable display of resilience and determination, Sophie, who underwent a kidney transplant in 2021, claimed Gold in the 50m Breaststroke, Gold in the 50m Butterfly and Silver in the 50m front crawl. Sophie then moved from the pool and secured silver in the 400m running.

Sophie's inspirational story began in 2012 when she was diagnosed with IGA nephropathy, a form of kidney disease, following a routine blood test at her doctors. At the time, Sophie's kidney function was at 46% but she was able to live her normal life, which included swimming and going to the gym, whilst being monitored. This continued for 10 years until 2021 when her kidney function dropped to 15% and she was put on the transplant list.

Fortunately, Sophie's mum Sarah was a compatible donor, and she donated a kidney to her daughter. Sophie comments: "I feel really lucky, firstly that my kidney disease was spotted and secondly, that my mum was a compatible donor. When you have something like kidney failure, you don't realise how poorly its making you feel, you just get on with it, so it was incredible how much better I felt so quickly after the operation!"

Following her transplant and a period of recuperation, Sophie was approached by the captain of the Coventry and Warwickshire Transplant Team who let Sophie know about the Games.

Sophie comments: "I was always a good swimmer in my youth and once I heard about the Games I was so determined to get back in the pool, regain my fitness and take part. The games are designed to show people the importance of being active after a transplant and can be a great route back into sport for many people. Some people at the games used to compete at a high level so it was a competitive field."

Following her success at the UK Transplant Games, Sophie has now qualified for the European games which take place in Portugal in 2024.

The British Transplant Games have been running for over 40 years. Taking place in different host cities every summer, the games see teams from hospitals across the UK come together to compete in a medley of sports. This year's 4-day event took place in Coventry and featured 57 teams, 332 competitors and over 2,000 people at the opening ceremony.

Jane Brown, Principal at New College comments: "Sophie's incredible achievement has not only brought pride to New College Leicester but has also drawn attention to the importance of organ donation and living a healthy lifestyle, something we encourage all students to do. Because Sophie was such a fit and active person prior to having her transplant, she was able to recover quickly from it and get back to her life. We are all immensely proud of her and she is a fantastic role model to our children."

New College Leicester reaccredited with Artsmark Gold Award

Our students and staff are celebrating after New College Leicester received a prestigious Artsmark Gold Award. It is a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve their Artsmark Award, we had to develop our arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Over the past 15 years, we have developed a rounded curriculum that highly values the arts, creative and cultural subjects for the positive impact engaging in these subjects can have on young people. We have an established Arts and Culture strategy which gives our students access to cultural experience both directly in the school and through community programmes, such as our current partnership with The Curve Theatre in Leicester.

We were supported in planning and developing our objectives by The Mighty Creatives, a charity that provides creative youth services for young people, helping them to harness the power of the arts and creativity for positive change. The Mighty Creatives worked alongside our staff at various stages to support their Artsmark Award achievement.

The Artsmark assessor commended New College Leicester on its commitment to the arts and the high value it places on offering arts rich experiences to its students, many of whom who do not have such opportunities outside of school, commenting: "Students actively contribute to the development of the arts provision which reflects their interests and cultural heritage. Students can access glass-working, spray painting, lighting production, reggae, Bollywood dance, stage fighting, e-textiles and 2D design."

"The many collaborations New College Leicester has developed with arts practitioners and organisations are making a difference to students' outcomes. Perhaps the most notable is your Project Enable working with Soft Touch Arts and Team Hub to support targeted groups of students with their wellbeing and long-term partnerships with Curve theatre and Leicestershire Music Service."

On receiving the award, Ms Kate Brown Director of Learning at New College Leicester said: "We're extremely proud to be reaccredited as an Artsmark Gold Award School. We remain committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education across all years building on the success of several projects including our Year 4 Performing Arts Programme and continuing to work in partnership with our arts partners to enhance our students' experiences and achievements. We look forward to continuing our range of initiatives to further grow with Artsmark."

Dr Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

"I would like to congratulate New College Leicester on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."



New College Leicester Winner at the National Education Today Awards 2023!



We are delighted to announce that our Business Development Manager, Wayne Allsopp, has been named as the winner in the “Business Development Manager/Bursar” of the Year category at Education Today’s Schools & Supplier Awards.

The School & Supplier Awards, with Education Today, recognises and rewards the suppliers, schools, and individuals who work tirelessly for the greater good of the education sector.

Wayne was nominated by his colleagues for his commercial acumen, commitment to collaboration and partnerships, as well as his marketing approach to raising the school’s profile among students, parents and the wider community.

Since his arrival the school, Wayne has had a huge impact on the commercial operations at New College Leicester. He has introduced several new income streams, leading to the school now turning over half a million pounds in extra income annually. He is also driving additional income and community involvement through an asset-based community development approach, positioning the school at the heart of the local community.

Wayne has been instrumental in insourcing the catering provision that the school provides and creating an onsite coffee shop to increase footfall through the school at evenings and weekends. Other projects he has worked on include Building Schools for the Future, the Closed Road Cycle Circuit, The Football Development Centre, The Gymnastics Centre, The Netball and Tennis Courts, the Salix Sustainability Scheme, the Data Centre and the Section 106 Funding from a local housing development, providing extremely welcome sources of income to improve and maintain the school’s estate, during increasingly challenging economic times.

Jane Brown, Principal at New College Leicester said: “Wayne is always exploring new opportunities and ways of collaborating with additional stakeholders. He is an expert in developing and leading partnerships. Key organisations like the NHS West Leicester Children’s Mental Health Team now lease office accommodation from us and their support has been invaluable in dealing with the mental health crisis post the pandemic. Leicestershire Music Service are another partner now based at the school and in return for space they provide tuition for the students.”

Wayne Allsopp comments: “I am so pleased that the hard work of the team at New College has put into improving our school has been recognised by Education Today. It’s not just me, it’s for us all and its fantastic to be considered amongst the best in the UK for our work in providing included, rounded education for all. It’s a critical time for students and parents to make their secondary school choices and this kind of recognition helps us to demonstrate the range of opportunities we can provide here at New College.”



Great to be Back on Court!

NCL Year 10 Girls Netball Team were delighted to return to the netball court this term to represent the College at the Inspire Together, Leicester City Netball Tournament held at Soar Valley College.

The tournament comprised 5 matches of which our team won 3. Our goal attack and goal shooter were on top form scoring a total of 14 goals.

Overall results were:

NCL v Soar Valley - won 5-1

NCL v Castle Mead - lost 1-3

NCL v Avanti Fields - won 2-1

NCL v Madani - won 5-1

NCL v English Martyrs - lost 1-4

Hanna was chosen as the Most Valuable Player by the staff.

Thank-you to all our netball players for representing the College at the tournament. We're all looking forward to more opportunities throughout the academic year to play competitive netball as the year progresses.

Player Confidence Grows at Leicester Tigers' Festival of Rugby



Congratulations to NCL students from years 9 and 10 who provided exceptional performances throughout the tournament, both on and off the pitch. Their conduct throughout made them a credit to the school.

The event gave the boys the opportunity to develop their confidence in playing touch rugby and to begin to get to grips with the rules. Followers of rugby will know the rules are quite daunting, even to the most experienced of players! This was also very much about understanding the importance of teamwork, a vital element of the sport.

Of the three games played, our team won one, drew one and lost one. The students really benefitted from the opportunity to test their prowess in competitive games against students from other schools.

Rising rugby player Thomas G sums up his experience:

"I really enjoyed the festival. It was a great opportunity for us to play the game and to gain experience in playing competitive matches against other schools."

Thank you to all at Leicester Tigers for organising the Festival of Rugby so superbly.

Year 10 Netballers Meet Acclaimed England Players



It's not everyday that you are able to meet world class athletes but that's just what happened for students who are part of NCL's year 10 netball squad.

At an event to kick start the Hawks Netball Club Community Schools Engagement Project, the aspirations of our players were certainly raised when they had the opportunity to meet two very talented England netball players - Vicki Oyesola and Emma Thacker. The stars also took the time to pose for a photo with our students!

This fun evening of netball featured a Schools Mini Tournament for invited Leicester City Schools and was aimed at breaking down barriers to sport and making it accessible to all. As part of the Hawks' ambitious '20 Community Events for our 20th Anniversary' pledge, the club's flagship programme hopes to empower 10 talented girls through a year-long funded netball journey with their Community Sponsorship Programme.

Liz Clark, Head of PE at NCL, has nominated 5 students for the programme and is keeping

her fingers crossed that some, if not all the nominees, are selected to take up this fantastic opportunity.

Best of luck to the nominees and thank you to all the squad for being such wonderful sports ambassadors for NCL.

The final word goes to Liz Clark,

"As always I'm extremely proud of our Year 10 Netball girls - they showed maturity, dedication and true sportsmanship."



Year 10 Boccia Sports Leaders Event



Boccia is one of those sports that few people have heard of but which is growing in popularity. Boccia England describes the sport as the most inclusive one in England. It's a game that can be played by anyone regardless of age, gender, ability, or disability. The game can be played socially for fun but is a Paralympic sport.

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders had the opportunity to further develop their understanding of the game at a recent coaching event organised by Inspire Together. By furthering their knowledge, the Sports Leaders now have a fuller understanding of the sport and are more confident in assisting primary aged pupils to play the game.

The game was originally designed for people with cerebral palsy, and is the only sport available to many severely disabled people. However, non disabled people can play boccia as long as they remain seated and it's ideal for children. Similar to bowls, from a seated position, players propel balls to land as close as

possible to a white marker ball, known as the Jack. Two sides compete as individuals, pairs or as a team of three over a set number of ends.

Our Sports Leaders are now looking forward to putting their skills to good use as they introduce Boccia to the primary aged pupils and see how their organisational skills cope with the enthusiasm of the young players.

Our partnership with Inspire Together enables students to attend school games competitions throughout the year which are organised into 3 strands; inspire, develop and excel. These events offer engaging physical activity and sport for all interests and abilities.

As with this Boccia training event, the partnership also gives our students access to Sports Leadership training and events, some of which are hosted at New College Leicester. This allows us to work closely with partnership organisers and local primary schools.



Aspiring Year 10 Students Visit Leicester University



Part of our ethos here at New College Leicester is to challenge all students both inside and outside the classroom, raising their aspirations to excel in their studies at school and, should they choose, by going on to higher education.

To help the students gain some understanding of what university education entails and what life at university is all about, 30 year 10 students who are part of our Aspire Programme recently visited Leicester University. Rated as one of the most socially inclusive of the UK's leading universities with a long-standing commitment to providing fairer and equal access to higher education, Leicester is ranked as 24th in the UK.

Our year 10 students received lectures from the English and Modern Foreign Languages faculties. They took part in a tour of the campus and had the opportunity to chat with current students about what they saw as the benefits of a university education and how they coped with the transition from school to university.

The campus certainly wowed one of our students who commented:

'The tour was great! The University campus is so big! I think I want to come to Leicester Uni.'

As for the lectures they were well received and certainly stretched our year 10s as one student said:

'I liked the lecture on Sonnets by Shakespeare even though some of it was quite hard to understand!'

We are very grateful to the Leicester University Outreach Team for providing this valuable opportunity for NCL students to have a taste of what higher education has to offer. From comments received, the visit seems to have inspired some of our year 10s to consider applying for a place at university. Whether or not this is Leicester remains to be seen!



Year 8 Project Enable Students Visits to Team Hub and to Soft Touch Arts

To support the expressive arts curriculum by giving NCL students the opportunity to engage with music and art projects in the local community and outside of New Parks, a group of year 8s recently visited two leading providers of art and music projects.

Project Enable is the latest of a series of programmes in New Parks, dedicated to improving lives through creativity. The project is a partnership with New College and resident-run community centre, Team Hub, and Soft Touch Arts in Leicester. It co-ordinates music, art and creative sessions across the three groups to engage young people who attend New College and/or Team Hub, leading on to longer term development and progression sessions in New Parks and eventually at Soft Touch. Designed for students who have taken part in Stage 1 of the Project Enable onsite at New College, the visit to Soft Touch Arts provided an insight into working alongside industry professionals in a music studio setting, with a view to the students eventually attending sessions at Soft Touch Arts independently. Students explored different resources that are available and took part in art and music workshops. They also had the opportunity to create their own music with some of Soft Touch's highly skilled professional musicians and producers.

During their time at Team Hub, our students were able to see what the local community provision has to offer them. There are a wide range of opportunities, for example music and art workshops, dance classes and football.

These visits raised awareness about career opportunities within music and the performing arts and provided students with the opportunity to develop and strengthen relationships within our partnerships with Soft Touch Arts and Team Hub. Project Enable is providing creative projects that can have a positive impact and encourage ownership of the community. We hope that by participation our students will have pride in their local community, accountability for their education and leave a lasting creative legacy that they can be proud of for years to come!





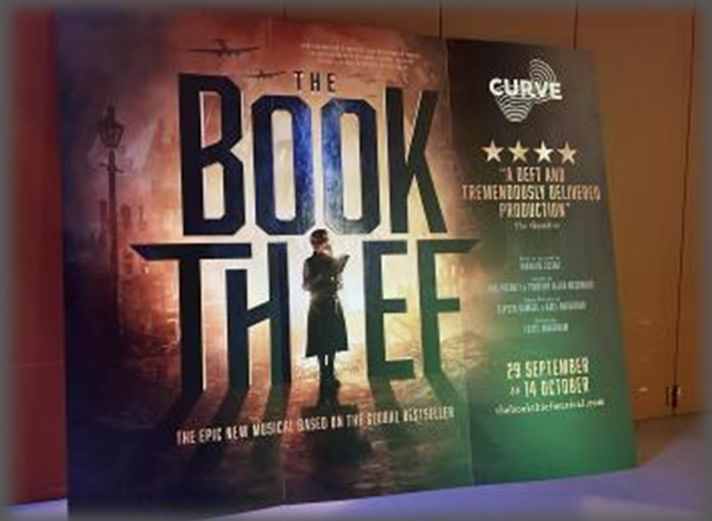
NCL Students Experience 'A Terrific Piece of Theatre' at the Curve Theatre Leicester

Students from Years 7 and 8 this term benefitted from the opportunity to experience live theatre when they visited the Curve Theatre, Leicester to watch a superb performance of 'The Book Thief.'

Originally a book by Markus Zusak, the story has been adapted to make a powerful piece of musical theatre.

The visit was the first time some students had been to the theatre, and they were treated to a very memorable night out. The play supported key issues which are addressed through our curriculum. Set in Nazi Germany during World War 2, 'The Book Thief' presented a very powerful portrayal of the impact of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, propaganda and the horror of war. Liesel, the 12 year-old main character, caused us all to reflect on the power of words and how they can bring joy and also the hate they can spread.

The parallels with what is happening in the world today as 'fake news' and hateful words inform opinions and masquerade as 'fact,' made 'The Book Thief' all the more compelling. Just as Liesel sought education and books to sustain her, we hope that our students develop the skills and understanding to challenge bigotry and discrimination they too often witness and experience in their own lives. Perhaps, like Liesel, they will also discover the power of books and words as a source of comfort in difficult times.



English teacher Miss Abadir who organised the visit comments,

"Our students were a pleasure to be with and handled some challenging content really well. This was the first time many of our students had visited the theatre to see a live production and I'm sure the experience made a big impression."

Thank-you to Miss Abadir for organising this wonderful opportunity and to our students whose behaviour throughout was impeccable.



Choosing the Right Path: An Inspirational Talk by Scott Browett from Right Path

This term we were pleased to welcome Scott to NCL recently to share with our Year 10s his personal experience of the detrimental effects involvement in drugs can have on a person's own life and that of their family.



As Scott's talk was based on the reality of events in his life and the pathway that drugs took him down, this was not comfortable listening. Scott was factual about his experience, honest and at times his words were shocking. He covered topics such as the dreadful impact of drugs on his life, how county lines ensnare young people and the reality of prison.

The good news is that Scott has turned his life around by choosing to take the route to recovery. He now devotes his time to visiting schools and, by sharing his story, Scott is hoping to educate students about the harsh reality of being involved with drugs, county lines and serving time in prison and thus to dissuade them from getting involved.

His thought-provoking talk encouraged the students to reflect on the effects of different drugs on the body, their lives, and the local community and to consider the impact a prison sentence can have on a person's life and their future. Throughout the talk our students were very engaged in the activities, were extremely respectful and inquisitive. They appreciated that Scott was sharing some very personal experiences. This was not a TV soap. This was the harsh realities of life but with a positive outcome for Scott.

It was interesting to hear how Scott escaped the grip of the drug habit that had taken over his life, and we wish him well with his future endeavours to keep young people safe.

Meet our Safeguarding Team here at New College Leicester!

At New College Leicester, the safety of our students at all times is of paramount importance to us. Every student at New College Leicester has been given a "How to stay safe" card. The card has been designed so that students can keep it with them at all times for their reference. This card has important information on it as to how students can stay safe in college, at home, in the community, on-line and near water, fire, roads and railways. If your child needs a replacement copy of the "How to stay safe" card please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor. To contact any member of the safeguarding team please contact the college on 0116 231 8500.

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Rudge-Tezcan

Designated Members of Staff



Ms Amani



Mr Pereira



Ms Brown



Miss Carlisle



Mr Porter



Miss Wright



Mrs Dawson
Safeguarding Admin

Mental Health First Aiders here at New College Leicester



There are plenty of different types of support out there, and a Mental Health First Aider can help you access the support you need to feel better.

Mental Health First Aiders are a point of contact if you, or someone you are concerned about, are experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. They are not therapists or psychiatrists but they can give you initial support and signpost you to appropriate help if required.

Your Mental Health First Aiders are.....



Mrs J Brown



Mrs L Dawson



Mrs T Mercer



Mr M Pereira



Mr M Porter



Mrs E Rudge-Tezcan



Mrs K Simpson

IMPORTANT NEWS



Does your child have a medical condition that we are not aware of, or do they no longer suffer with a condition that we currently have on our system? If you answer yes to these questions please contact us so we can update our records.

Have you changed your address, contact number or email address? If so please inform the school of the new details so we can update your child's records.

Uniform

At New College Leicester we have high uniforms expectations. We expect all our students to come to school in the correct uniform every day. As a reminder of our uniform expectations please refer to our website

www.newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Scooters/Bikes

Students who come to school on bikes or non-electric scooters should be parking them in the student bike shelters located inside the student entrance and NOT at the main reception bike shelter. Please be aware that all students MUST lock these up in the shelter as the students are responsible for their own property and leave them in the shelter at their own risk.

Please note electric scooters are not permitted to be brought to school as the law states that electric scooters are illegal to use on public roads, pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas!

Keep following us on Social Media!

To keep up to date with everything we do here, you can not only visit our website www.newcollege.leicester.sch.uk, but you can follow us on twitter @NewCollegeLeics, on Facebook @newcollegeleics and on Instagram @newcollegeleics



From everyone at New College Leicester, we wish you a very Merry Christmas



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